

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

COPESTAKE, HUGHES, CRAMPTON, & CO. Bulletin 257/11

This article has produced quite a few comments. My own comment is that I was incorrect saying that C3195 (Fig.14) was not identified. This is in fact identified as Copestake, Hughes, Crampton & Co.

TONY LLEWELLYN EDWARDS agrees with Roy that the box was not meant to obliterate 'MOORE'. The only proof seems to be the reference in Jennings'. He feels the C3130 (Fig.11) would make a better effort at removing 'MOORE'.

(Editor:- Mike Hemsall in his article in Bulletin 177 made a good case for C3130 being identified with Copestake, Hughes, Crampton, & Co. This has not been picked up in Tomkins but perhaps it has not been accepted.)

DAVID SCOTT notes that the box would have to be a larger rectangle to cover the word 'CRAMPTON' and as his perfin is on a stamp with underprint as Fig.3, the box only covers ..'N & C'

Tony adds that perfin dies C1290.02a (CC/&Co); C1295 (C.C/&Co.); 1300.01 (CC/C^oL^d); and 1380.02 (CC/L) (Poko) which are all identified with this firm should be mentioned. He has also sent photocopies of two commercial overprints used by this firm for their receipt stamps. Fig. 1 is the 1d lilac (circa 1881) with "Copestake & Co./LONDON" at the top and a "£" sign at the bottom. Fig.2 is the 1d EVII with "Received" at the top and "for Copestake & Co/LONDON" at the bottom. My apologies for the lack of clarity of the overprints.



Fig.1



Fig.2

David wonders about the nature of the business of Copestake & Co. Both he and Tony note the 'NPB' cancellations on these stamps. From Mike Hempsall (Bulletin 177) it is obvious that 'out of London' postmarks are prevalent, particularly that of Manchester.

John Nelson, in his article 'SC - The First Perfin' - in Bulletin 234 Page 3, tells us that in 1867 Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co were "Drapers' Warehousemen". Presumably the 'NPB' cancellations were on orders sent out to small drapers up and down the country and the 'out-of-town' postmarks from their reps. As Manchester was the centre of the cotton trade at that time it is quite feasible that Copestake either had an office there or, more likely, a permanent buyer for merchandise. I would be grateful if anyone can dig out any solid facts about the history of this firm.

BILL TURNEY (Canada), DAVID SCOTT, IAN BROWN and HARRY SKINNER have confirmed the dual security on the 1d Venetian Red (SG166), 1½d Plate 3 (SG51) and the 2d Blue Plate 15 (SG46) but I have not heard from anyone with a 3d Rose Plate 20 (SG143). Tony Edwards has added another to the list - a 1d lilac Die II, first introduced 12th Dec 1881 but by its' colour Tony thinks it is a much later printing.

Turning to the perfins as Figures 11 to 15 in Bulletin 257, David Scott, Ian Burns and Gary Shayler give the following information:-

Fig.12 is on 3d lilac (SG191) and ½d blue (SG187) - the 3d has a cancel which looks like GPO in a circle.

Fig.15 is on many 1d lilacs with London postmarks 1881 to 1894 and one a Birmingham postmark. A ½d orange Jubilee (SG197) postmark London 7-7-93 and 1½d Jubilee (SG198) cancel 'G.P.O. DEPO'.

Many thanks to everyone who responded and it is not too late to send new information.

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